

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 4 has been amended. Claims 1-18 are pending and under consideration. Claim 18 is objected to.

It is respectfully submitted that the objection to claim 4 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 thereto are overcome by the present amendments thereto.

Independent claim 1 recites that the paper guide member is movably disposed between first and second positions with respect to a paper discharging direction. It is respectfully submitted that Toyoki does not disclose this feature.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and recites when the paper guide member is in the first position the papers drop to a first placing position from the paper outlet without being guided by the paper guide member. In contrast, Toyoki discloses a tray 3 to support the sheets 6 so that sheets do not drop.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and recites the guide panel moves to the first position by pivotingly falling from the second position due to a weight thereof. In contrast, the sheet regulating plate 7 of Toyoki moves horizontally, and therefore does not move between positions according to a weight thereof.

Independent claim 8 recites the first and second stacking positions being disposed relative to each other along the discharge direction. In contrast, the sheets 6a, 6b, 6c of Toyoki are disposed relative to each other perpendicular to the discharge direction. Toyoki, FIG. 4. Masaru teaches a small size tray 10 and a large size tray 11. The small sized sheets are stacked against a projection on an upper surface of the small size tray 10. The large sized sheets are stacked against a wall of the large size tray 11. The wall of the large size tray 11 and the projection of the small size tray 10 are disposed relative to each other in the paper discharge direction. This relative disposition offsets the difference in size, resulting in the papers being stacked at a same position in the paper discharge direction.

Independent claims 14, 15 and 18 are patentable over the cited references at least for similar reasons as discussed with respect to independent claim 8.

Accordingly, withdrawal of rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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